DLA SYSTEMS DESIGN CENTER
(Formerly DLA Systems Automation Center (DSAC))

The DLA Systems Design Center (DSDC) is one of 27 activities assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). It is DLA's primary central design activity for automated information and telecommunications systems. DSDC, under the command of CAPT Peter Anderson, SC, USN, is collocated with the Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio (DSCC), Defense Depot Columbus (DDCO), the Defense Megacenter Columbus (DMC), and the Defense Finance& Accounting Service(DFAS).

The DLA Systems Design Center (DSDC) was established in February 1964, two years after the creation of the Defense Logistics Agency, and was renamed the DLA Systems Design Center in October 1994. Today's staff of over 1,200 computer professionals are headquadered in Columbus, OH. DSDC provides on-site ADP/Teleprocessing support to Centers distant from Columbus by maintaining satellite offices in locations such as Philadelphia, PA Battle Creek, Ml; Ogden, UT Dayton, OH, New Cumberland, PA, Washington D.C. and Memphis, TN. Also on-site in Columbus is the Office of Acquisition Management (DSDC-P), which works closely with the DLA Acquisition Contracting Office in purchasing ADP-related equipment for DLA., and the DLA Intra-Agency Training Office (DSDC-TAT) which conducts a full schedule of computer-related and business support skill classes for student interns and personnel from other government organizations.

The DLA Systems Design Center came into being in 1964 when automated information systems were just beginning. Columbus was chosen as the location for the Center because of the competence of data systems personnel already located at DSCC and because of ADP professionals available from nearby DLA Centers. A nucleus from these centers came together and attracted top data processing personnel throughout DLA. Their first task was the development of SAMMS (Standard Automated Materiel Management System), which remains the largest automated system in DLA.

DSDC'S primary mission is to design, develop and maintain DLA Automated Data Processing (ADP) and Telecommunications systems that enable DLA to buy, store and ship over 3.1 million items to the U.S. military forces around the world. DSDC also provides ADP training and evaluation criteria for the acquisition of ADP equipment.

Major automated systems are designed to facilitate the supply of repair parts, clothing and textiles, electronic items, and general supplies to military facilities and forces worldwide, administer government contracts, and to support payments to suppliers. The Standard Automated Materiel Management System (SAMMS), automatically processes nearly 30 million requisitions annually, and manages an inventory worth over $9 billion. Other systems manage payroll operations for some 176,000 DLA employees, support the reutilization and marketing of excess property in the Department of Defense worldwide, maintain equipment used by manufacturers in support of mobilization, and provide perishable/non-perishable subsistence to U.S. troops throughout the world.

DSDC-supported systems are also the basis for:

- Automatically processing 95 percent of 27.8 million requisitions annually.

- Supplying food for 9 million persons daily in U.S. dining halls and commissaries around the world. Providing contract administration for over 67.5 million DoD and other government contracts valued at over $1 trillion involving over 30,000 contractors.

- Maintaining a nationwide on-line teleprocessing network that serves more than 150,000 DLA and DoD end users in the continental United States, Hawaii and Europe.

- Receiving, storing and shipping over 1.75 million tons of material to the military each year. Maintaining automated pay, personnel and cost accounting records for DLA, DoD and other government employees, including the White House staff.

- Reutilizing or arranging for the sale, transfer or donation of $4.7 billion worth of surplus DoD material worldwide. Operating DLA's Office of Technology Training, which last year provided over 144,000 hours of instruction to 5,755 persons.

The growth of DSDC through the years mirrored that of the information industry itself. Tasked with building new systems, DSDC created APCAPS (Automated Payroll, Cost Accounting & Personnel System) in 1966 and deployed MOWASP (Mechanization of Warehousing & Shipment Procedures) in 1969. These were followed by others with sometimes clever, sometimes unusual acronyms such as BOSS, DAISY, DISMS, MOCAS - systems that continue to grow and improve and spawn many newer, stat--the-ad applications such as SPEDE (SAMMS Procurement by Electronic Data Exchange), and COMPASS (Contract Management Paperless Automated Support System).

DSDC has played a vital role in DoD's new initiatives and massive consolidation changes, such as bringing together the new Defense Contract Management Command under the Defense Data Network and relocating mainframe computer operations for the Information Processing Center Columbus (IPCC) and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

Two widely known systems, DBMS (Defense Business Management System) and TALE (Time and Attendance and Labor Excepting), have put resource management information on virtually every manager's desk. DBMS continues to be selected by external DoD and Civil Agencies for resource management needs - human and financial.

The DSDC vision statement begins with the words, 'DSDC - Center of excellence for DLA developed information systems'. DSDC is made up of individuals with unusual talents. Whether it be new taskings or charity fund drives, associates meet each challenge with imagination and enthusiasm. Their "cando" attitude spills over into the community through participation in professional organizations, civic enterprises and programs such as Adopt-A-School.

The DSDC organization recognizes the human as well as the task side of its operation. To keep that vision of excellence in the forefront, associates are involved in motivational programs, Total Quality Management training and team building. DSDC is learning how its leadership styles and group dynamics affect the ability to produce quality products to meet customer needs.

DSDC takes pride in all its efforts, external as well as internal, and projects an image of which DLA can be proud.